

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMEOPATHY (AYUSH)
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1760
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2017
Contribution of Ayurvedic Products to GDP
Jayadevan Shri C. N.

Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMEOPATHY (AYUSH) be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (AYUSH) be pleased to state:

- (a) the contribution of Ayurvedic healthcare and medicine manufacturing to the GDP in the country;
- (b) the details of area of agricultural land that is under medicinal plant cultivation at present along with the measures being undertaken to increase the cultivation of medicinal plants in the country;
- (c) whether ayurvedic medicines produced in India and exported to other countries are rejected on the ground of presence of heavy metals content; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA,
YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY
(SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)

(a): The statistical information about the total contribution of Ayurvedic healthcare and medicine manufacturing to the GDP is not available except percentage share of ayurvedic products in the GDP. GDP statement of pharmaceuticals, medicinal chemicals and botanical products along with percentage share of ayurvedic products to the GDP for the last five years is given at Annexure-I.

(b): The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) under Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, since its inception in the year 2000, has been promoting cultivation of medicinal plants throughout the country. NMPB has supported cultivation of medicinal plants over an area of about 2,61,933 hectares in different states of the country. During the financial year 2016-17, cultivation of prioritized medicinal plant on about 12, 416 hectares of land has been supported through National AYUSH Mission, state-wise details of the area supported for medicinal plants cultivation are provided in Annexure-II.

(c): Manufacturing and quality control of Ayurvedic medicines in the country is regulated under the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules thereunder. It is mandatory for the manufacturers of Ayurvedic medicines to follow Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and quality standards of identity, purity and strength of drugs and permissible limits of heavy metals, pesticide residue, aflatoxins and microbial load as prescribed in the Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia. Rasaushdhies or Rasa Yog is a distinct category of Ayurvedic medicines essentially containing mineral or herbo-mineral ingredients, which are rendered therapeutically safe and effective by subjecting them to certain manufacturing processes of shodhana (purification or detoxification), marana (incineration/calcination) and amritikaran (qualitative improvement). These processes are prescribed in the authoritative books of Ayurveda listed in the First Schedule of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940. Ayurvedic Drugs Manufacturers Association has reported instances of rejection of Ayurvedic medicines by other countries on the ground of presence of heavy metal content. However, the fact is that Ayurvedic products are manufactured under license as medicines or drugs in India, whereas these products are exported mainly as nutraceuticals, health foods or dietary supplements since Ayurvedic system is not recognized as distinct entity in many countries and its products do not qualify as drugs or medicines according to the regulations of importing countries.

(d): With an objective to address quality issues of Ayurvedic and other such medicines, Government has taken following corrective measures-

i) Directive dated 14th October, 2005 under the provisions of Section 33EEB of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 was issued to make testing of heavy metals mandatory for export purposes in respect of every batch of purely herbal Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani drugs by every licensee and to display on the container of export oriented products the words "Heavy Metals Within Permissible Limit" with effect from 1st January 2006.

ii) GMP Guidelines for Rasaushdhies have been added in Schedule 'T' of the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945 since 9th March 2009.

iii) Pharmacopoeia Commission of Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy has been established to develop standards of drugs and standard operating procedures of manufacturing Ayurvedic Drugs for publication of the respective pharmacopoeias.

iv) For facilitating export of Ayurvedic medicines, quality certification systems based on WHO Guidelines and International Standards are administered by Drugs Controller General and Quality Council of India respectively.

v) Central Pharmacopieal Laboratory of Indian Medicine, Ghaziabad (U.P.), 27 State Drug Testing Laboratories supported by the Central Government and 44 laboratories licensed under the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945 are in place to carry out testing of Ayurvedic drugs & raw materials.

vi) Financial support is provided through National AYUSH Mission to strengthen State pharmacies, Drug Testing Laboratories and Enforcement Framework.

vii) Provision has been made in the Central Sector Scheme of International Cooperation for the industry to avail financial support for preparation of technical dossiers and registration of AYUSH medicines in foreign countries to obtain market authorization.